And In their pale dull mouths the gimmal bit[1]
Lies foul with chew'd grass, still and motionless:
And their executors, the knavish crows[3],"
Fly o'er them all, impatient for their hour.
Description cannot suit itself in words.
To demonstrate the life of such a battle
In life so lifeless[3] as it shows itself.

CON. They have said their prayers, and they stay for death.

DAU. Shall we go send them dinners, and fresh suits,
And give their fasting horses provender^
And after fight with them ?

CON. *I* stay but for my guard[4]; On, to the field:

[1] — GIMMAL bit —] *Gimmal* is, in the western counties, a *ring*: a *gimmal bit* is therefore a *bit* of which the parts played one within another. JOHNSON.

I meet with the word, though differently spelt, in the old play of The Raigne of King Edward the Third, 1596 :

"** Nor lay aside their jacks of *gymold* mail."

Gymold or *gimmald* mail means armour composed of links like those of a chain, which by its flexibility fitted it to the shape of the body more exactly than defensive covering of any other contrivance. There was a suit of it to be seen in the Tower. Spenser, in his Fairy Queen, book i. ch. v. calls it *woven mail:*

"In *woven* mail all armed warily."/*

In Linguæ, &c. 1607, is mentioned:

"----a *gimmal* rink with one link hanging." ** STEEVENS.

"A^wmz/orgemmowring" (says Minsheu, Dictionary, 1617,) from the Gal. *gemeau*, Lat. *gemellus*, double or twinnes, because they be rings with two or more links/* MALONE.

^ —their executors, the knavish crows.] The crows who are to have the disposal of what they shall leave, their hides and their flesh. JOHNSON.

3In life so lifeless—] So, in The Comedy of Errors:

"** A living dead man/*
STEEVENS.

4I stay but for my GUARD ;] It seems, by what follows, that *guard* in this place means rather something of ornament or of distinction, than a body of attendants. JOHNSON.

The following quotation from Holinshed, p. 554, will best

elucidate this passage: " The duke of Brabant when his standard was not come caused a *banner* to be taken from a *trumpet* and